

been equalled. We cannot but feel regret that so much has been compressed into so little space, for this part of his work will appeal strongly to many besides the novice. The latter will revel, or very likely flounder in the keys which are certainly extremely ingenious; still the inherent disregard of birds for classification is not entirely overcome. It will strike some that the measurements have been given with a superfluous minuteness that will only tend to confuse the beginner. Why not tell him the Phœbe is 7 inches long rather than '6.99'? and the added or subtracted hundredths of an inch here and there would have made the keys look less like time-tables. Otherwise, the descriptive details, as far as they go, are admirable and it is a pleasure to turn pages which are so filled with morsels of useful information that we could wish for bigger bites. Four illustrations by Mr. Fuertes and numerous appropriate woodcuts add life to the pages, which are neatly and clearly printed. Even the cover is attractive and no one will begrudge the sooty Chimney Swift his gilded body, for ever since in 'Citizen Bird' Dr. Coues and Mrs. Wright perched him on the telegraph wires, we must expect some conventional liberties to be taken with this 'spruce cone with wings.' It is to be hoped Mr. Hoffmann's book will have the warm reception of which it is so deserving, and he himself is to be congratulated on having employed his pen to such good purpose.—J. D., JR.

Hornaday's 'The American Natural History.'<sup>1</sup>—This very useful work is intended to bridge the "chasm that is wide and deep" between "the 'scientific' zoölogy, suitable only for students in the higher colleges and universities" and "the 'nature-study' books of the grammar schools." It is not a manual of the vertebrate zoölogy of North America, as it attempts to treat only "about three hundred important and well chosen species of animals," of which a number are exotic, selected to fill in important gaps in the general system of vertebrate life. It is systematic in arrangement, beginning with the highest class, or mammals, and ending with the lampreys and lancelets. There is a general introduction of about eight pages (pp. xix-xxv), explanatory of classification, nomenclature, and other technicalities, all very useful and pertinent, and including a timely warning notice against the present tendency "to idealize the higher animals, to ascribe to them intelligence and reasoning

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<sup>1</sup> The American | Natural History | A Foundation of useful Knowledge of | the Higher Animals of North America | By | William T. Hornaday | Director of the New York Zoölogical Park; Author of | "Two Years in the Jungle," etc. | Illustrated by 227 original drawings by Beard, Rungius, | Sawyer, and others, 116 photographs, chiefly by Sanborn, | Keller, and Underwood, and numerous charts and maps | Charles Scribner's Sons | New York, MCMIV—8vo, pp. xv + 449, numerous full-page half-tones and text cuts, including maps and charts. \$3.50, postage extra.

powers which they do not possess, and in some instances to 'observe' wonderful manifestations that take place chiefly in the imagination of the beholder." To mammals are assigned 170 pages, to birds 140, to reptiles 43, to amphibians, 12, to fishes 75. The information given is well chosen and well apportioned, the more important or more interesting groups being selected for fuller treatment in comparison with those of less popular interest. The nomenclature, particularly of the mammals, is well up to date, for which the author acknowledges his indebtedness to the influence and kind assistance of Dr. T. S. Palmer. In general only a few prominent species are mentioned, as examples of their kin, but in this way a large amount of very useful information is attractively presented. The illustrations are abundant, and for the most part excellent for their purpose. The work has a characteristic personality, and an off-hand and emphatic way of putting things that will prove attractive to many readers and less pleasing to others. There is a tendency to sweeping declarations that a little more care or thoughtfulness on the author's part would have rendered less open to criticism, as the statement regarding the pouch for the young in marsupials, the reader being left to infer that it is characteristic of all members of the order. Neither are his confessions respecting his lack of knowledge of the vocal powers of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Rose-breasted Grosbeak creditable to his powers of observation as an ornithologist; and what shall we say of the lapsus whereby he tells his readers that "The Order Machirochires means literally 'odd ones.'"

But notwithstanding an occasional indiscretion Mr. Hornaday's 'The American Natural History' is a valuable and helpful book that well fills a hitherto serious gap in our popular natural history literature, treating as it does, in a general and very helpful way, the vertebrates of North America in the compass of a single volume.—J. A. A.

The 'Baby Pathfinder to the Birds.'—"This little guide<sup>1</sup> has been prepared primarily," the authors state, "for New England, but should be of service in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania." It is restricted to land birds, and mostly to the Passeres, and gives in a few lines the "general appearance of adult birds as seen in the field," and a few words about the song, nest, and breeding range of each of the 110 species treated. Its small size renders it a convenient booklet for the pocket, and it should prove a convenient and helpful vade mecum for the student when afield, —J. A. A.

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<sup>1</sup> Baby Pathfinder to the Birds | Illustrated | A Pocket Guide to One Hundred and Ten Land Birds of New England | with blank pages for Notes | By Harriet E. Richards and Emma G. Cummings | Members of American Ornithologists' Union | — | W. A. Butterfield, Publisher, 59 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass. | 1904 — 125 leaves, printed on one side; type-bed 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  × 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  in.